

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:
an image reading carriage;
a reference position pattern element provided on a prescribed location in such a manner that it is able to be read by said image reading carriage which is caused to run;
a control section for detecting a reference position based on the reference position pattern element thus read and setting said image reading carriage at a prescribed position based on the reference position thus detected; and

a shading plate having a shading pattern formed thereon for performing shading correction, said reference position pattern element being formed on said shading plate at a portion thereof unprovided with said shading pattern.
3. – 6. (Canceled).
7. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said control section detects the reference position by reading said reference position pattern element by means of said image reading carriage, makes said image reading carriage move a prescribed distance from said reference position to an image reading start position, thereafter further moves said image reading carriage to a shading correction pattern side to perform shading correction, and then moves said image reading carriage to said image reading start position again to make it stand by there until an image reading instruction is given.
8. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said reference position pattern element comprises at least two reference position patterns arranged beyond opposing sides of the shading pattern.

9. (Previously Presented) The image reading apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said reference position pattern element comprises at least two reference position patterns arranged beyond a same side of the shading pattern.

10. (Canceled).